

FOREIGN NEWS

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK

ORGANIZATION NOTES AND CURRENT EVENTS

TRAINING-HOMES OF THE VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES FOR CANADA

THERE are two Training-Homes in connection with the Victorian Order of Nurses where special training in district nursing is given. These are in Montreal and Toronto respectively.

The word *home* truly expresses the congenial atmosphere which a nurse finds there. Every effort is made by the local boards in these cities to provide both well and liberally for the nurses' comfort, and the district superintendent in each case is verily a home-maker.

Nurses who hold a diploma of any recognized hospital training-school, who have had training in maternity nursing, who have a knowledge of the care of infectious cases, and who can furnish testimonials of work well done since the completion of their hospital training, may be admitted to one of these homes for a course of six months in district nursing. The first month they are on probation, and wear their school uniform; if during this period they show an adaptability for this particular branch of nursing, and if it is their wish to take the full course, at the end of the month they are given the uniform prescribed by the order. An allowance of fifteen dollars a month with maintenance is provided from the time of the nurse's entrance.

The uniform is an English print in three shades of blue, a large white apron with bib, turned-over collar and cuffs, and linen cap. The out-door uniform consists of a dark-blue ulster and blue sailor-hat. The nurses carry a leather bag equipped with necessaries required for either maternity or surgical cases; they may also have occasionally to carry a bundle of fresh linen from the loan supply.

The district lady superintendents make regular visits with their nurses and teach them how to get ready an ideal sick-room in the home of those who are living in poverty and dirt; but, alas! there are instances where this very important change cannot be accomplished. The nurses learn to go into the homes of the sick with a cheerfulness and a readiness to perform their duties which are in themselves a tonic to their patients, and also try to inspire the children with some appreciation of cleanliness. In one instance, where the nurse was caring for a mother during her eighth confinement, the children, rising above each other like tiny steps, were uncared for and the whole house was very dirty. A few mornings after the nurse's first visit, the eldest little girl, aged seven, ran to the door to greet her on her arrival. Her face was shining with the application of soap and water, and she exclaimed, "We wash face, comb hair all day."

The nurses are continually urged to make an effort to instil into the minds of the people with whom they thus come in contact the fundamental rules of good

health, namely, cleanliness, fresh air, and simple and properly cooked food. But unless they have the power of imparting knowledge on these very important subjects, and are prepared to do so in a tactful and pleasing manner, they have made a mistake in their choice of a profession. It is not enough for nurses to preach on these subjects, they must practise them in the home life. A nurse who is careless about airing her own bed before making it, neglectful of her articles of toilet, wears her hair frizzed and untidy, and pins her apron instead of buttoning it, is not the nurse for the Victorian Order. One who does district nursing must be herself a paragon of cleanliness and neatness, or she is incapable of becoming a "health missionary."

Each of the Training-Homes contains the nucleus of a library, in which are to be found such books as have been published on district nursing. The nursing magazines are subscribed for, and every effort is made to render the course as educative as possible. As the demand for the services of the district nurses becomes greater, larger classes will have to be formed, and then a regular course of lectures will be given.

The nurses rise at six-thirty and breakfast at seven; then they attend prayers, put their rooms in order, and are ready to start out on their rounds at eight o'clock. In order to husband both their time and strength, the trams are freely made use of.

Three or four patients may be made comfortable by one nurse in the course of the morning. A chart and report-sheet, showing the condition of the patient, are kept in an opaque envelope in the sick-room for the benefit of the doctors. The latter write down their orders, and thus it often happens that they and the nurses may see many cases through without the necessity of meeting.

The nurses return to the home for dinner at one o'clock, after which they make ready their bags for the afternoon visits. The remainder of the time is spent in rest and study until a quarter to four, when they take a cup of tea before going again into the districts. Supper is at seven-thirty, and after preparing the bags for the next day's work and attending to their record and time-books, the rest of the evening until bed-time is for recreation.

The nurses are off duty for several hours consecutively every Sunday, and one free afternoon a week is granted to each nurse unless a special press of work makes this impossible. There are occasional night calls, but at the Montreal home a nurse is engaged for this special work.

This brief sketch of the daily routine at the Victorian Order Training-Homes will be supplemented later on by an account of the admission of a nurse to the order itself after her district training is completed, and of the kind of work she may be called upon to perform.

CHARLOTTE MACLEOD,
Superintendent.

OPENING OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL OF PUERTO PRINCIPE, CUBA

FRIENDS of the American nurses who went to the hospital at Puerto Principe last summer will be interested to hear that after six months' waiting for necessary repairs and renovations the hospital is now open and in fairly good running order, the supplies and furnishings having been sent from the States. The hos-

pital has at present about one hundred patients, and a training-school has been established numbering twenty-five young Cuban women. Their intelligence and aptitude for the work so far give cause for gratification and encouragement on the part of their teachers. There have been a number of operations, and the doctors seem very much pleased with the nurses' work.

Mrs. Quintard will leave Puerto Principe shortly to assist in organizing similar work in the large Civil Hospital in Santiago de Cuba. Miss M. A. Mitchell will remain in charge at Puerto Principe, assisted by Miss M. A. Robertson, of New Haven Training-School; Miss C. L. Borden, St. Luke's, New York; Miss A. Alberti, St. Luke's, New York; Miss Alice P. Lyon, Brooklyn Homœopathic Training-School; Miss M. I. Smith, Philadelphia Hospital.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S LEAGUE AND THE CONGRESS OF NURSES

THE League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses at their November meeting considered the question of sending a delegate to the Congress of Nurses to be held in Buffalo next September. We are pleased to learn that they intend being represented there and hope other organizations of nurses in foreign countries will follow their example.

LETTERS

FROM OUR SPECIAL ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT

A NEW CLUB.

ANOTHER item of interest in the nursing world over here is the formation of a professional and social club by the nurses of Dublin. The following objects will give you some idea of its scope:

OBJECTS.

1. To provide a meeting-place for the mutual improvement of nurses where professional matters can be discussed.
2. To bring into touch with each other the members of the different branches of the profession,—medical, surgical, fever, obstetric, mental, and massage nurses,—whether engaged in hospital, in private, or in district work.
3. To provide reading-rooms supplied with daily papers, nursing and medical papers, and some periodicals.
4. To provide a department for registering the names and addresses of members engaged in private work who require employment.

Miss Huxley, lady superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, so well known for her sturdy support of legal status for nurses, has been elected the first president, and the committee includes the names of some of the brightest and most energetic matrons in the capital of the Emerald Isle.

THE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING-SCHOOL.

An event which has given great satisfaction in the nursing world here is that the committee of the Nightingale Training-School connected with St. Thomas's Hospital propose to grant a certificate to their nurses in the future. Up to the present time no certificate has been given by the school, but the names of the probationers who have passed through the prescribed curriculum to the